WE CLAIM:

1.   A communication method for two communication parties linked to each other by means of a full-duplex point-to-point connection, said method comprising:

an identification phase wherein said communication parties identify themselves to one another and define communication parameters;

a configuration phase wherein communication-party-dependent configuration data is exchanged between said two communication parties; and

a data exchange phase wherein cyclical and acyclical data is exchanged between the said communication parties if the configuration phase has been successfully completed.

2.   The communication method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said identification phase is preceded by an initialization phase during which a second communication party is recognized by a first communication party.

3.   The communication method as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein said identification phase and said configuration phase each comprise a double acknowledgement operation.

4.   The communication method as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein said configuration phase can recommence at any time.

5.   The communication method as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein said configuration phase is skipped.

6.   The communication method as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein an absent connection during a communication is restored by a restart of said identification phase.

7.   The communication method as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein said data exchange phase has at least one channel.

8.   The communication method as claimed in claims 1 or 2, wherein a first communication party comprises a converter and a second communication party comprises an option module.

9.   The communication method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said option module comprises an automation module.

10.   The communication method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said option module comprises a technology module.

11.   The communication method as claimed in claim 2, wherein a voltage potential on a connecting line of said full-duplex point-to-point connection is evaluated for an identification of a second communication party.